

March 2017 Monthly Report

March 2017

Past monthly reports are available via the web at <http://mil.wa.gov/emergency-management-division/alert-warning-center-monthly-report>

CATEGORY	March 2017	March 2016	YTD 2017	YTD 2016
Logged incidents:				
DOE (Department of Energy, Hanford Site)	0	0	2	1
FIRE	8	8	17	12
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENTS (HAZMAT)	231	220	655	491
OTHER	76	88	217	173
911 SERVICE OUTAGES	2	2	6	5
SEARCH AND RESCUE MISSIONS (SAR)	53	58	167	111
TERRORIST	0	0	0	0
INITIAL WEATHER INCIDENTS	5	8	13	12
CGS (Columbia Generating Station)	0	0	0	0
Total number of Logged incidents	375	384	1077	805

Categories not included in the total number of logged incidents above				
<i>Evidence Search Mission</i>	3	4	13	11
<i>Additional Weather Alerts (all subsequent alerts that are considered to be part of the initiating weather event)</i>	157	80	418	252

LEGEND	
WEATHER	Weather incidents such as Flooding, High Winds, and Snow
FIRE	Wildland Fire incidents
OTHER	This category includes a wide variety of incidents, including but not limited to Tsunami events, Earthquakes, and Critical Incident Stress Debriefings.

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SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- 17-0706 • On March 1, the National Weather Service (NWS) issued a Winter Storm Warning for the Cascades of Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, King, Pierce, and Lewis Counties until 4 a.m. on March 4.
- 17-0732 • On March 3, Yakima County Emergency Management requested assistance in obtaining three pallets of bottled water for citizens in the town of Outlook due to possible water contamination. Pallets were coordinated with a local water vendor and delivered to the scene.
- 17-0743 • On March 4, Kittitas County initiated the rescue of a snowmobiler injured in an avalanche in the Hawkins Mountain area. A helicopter with hoist was requested and coordinated from the King County Sheriff's Office; however the rescue could not be completed due to bad weather in the area. The subject died at the scene and his body was transported out using snowmobiles the following morning.
- 17-0747 • On March 4, the NWS issued a Winter Weather Advisory for the Puget Sound lowlands including the Seattle, Tacoma, Everett, and Bremerton areas. Two inches of snow accumulation was expected through the morning of March 5; however the weather never materialized for the lowland areas of western Washington.
- 17-0748 • On March 4, the International Emergency Coordination Center (IERCC) reported a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) was activated for an injured backcountry skier caught in an avalanche at Snow Lake near Alpentel in King County. The King County Sheriff's Office attempted to rescue the subject with their helicopter but bad weather made it impossible. A helicopter was then coordinated from Whidbey Island Naval Air Station. The Navy helicopter brought the injured skier out of the backcountry to the Alpentel parking lot where the subject was then transported by ambulance to a local hospital.
- 17-0764 • On March 6, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Watch for the Blue Mountains. The Watch was upgraded to a Winter Storm Warning through March 8.
- On March 6, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Watch for the East Slopes of the Cascades affecting Kittitas, Yakima and Klickitat Counties.
- On March 6, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Warning for the South Washington Cascades until 0400 hrs on March 8 and the South Washington Cascade Foothills until 1000 hrs on March 8 affecting Clark, Cowlitz, and Skamania Counties.
- On March 6, the NWS issued Winter Storm Warnings for the northeast Blue Mountains from 0400 hrs on March 6 to 1000 hrs on March 7 and the East

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Slopes of the Northern Cascades from 0400 hrs March 7 to 0400 hrs on March 8.

- On March 6, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Watch for the Cascades of: Pierce and Lewis Counties from March 7, morning to afternoon.
- On March 7, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Warning for the Cascades of: King, Lewis, Pierce, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom, Kittitas, Klickitat and Yakima, in effect March 8.
- On March 7, the NWS in Seattle issued a Gale Warning for the Northern Inland Waters and the San Juan Islands through March 8.

- 17-0784
- On March 7, Shoshone County Idaho Sheriff's Office requested ground searchers with snow shoes from Spokane County to assist in the search for a person missing since March 6. The subject was located on March 8 with minor injuries.
- 17-0791
- On March 8, Pierce County initiated a search for a missing 57 year-old female. Coordination was made for 5 Air Scent Dogs from King, Grays Harbor, Kitsap and Lewis Counties. The missing female was found okay before any of the search dog resources were deployed.
- 17-0810
- On March 9, the NWS issued a Flood Watch until late Friday night for Chelan, Douglas, Ferry, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens & Whitman Counties. Moderate to heavy rain (.5 - 1.5 inches), temperatures in the high 40's - low 50's accompanied by strong winds were predicted until late Friday night on March 10.
 - On March 9, the NWS in Spokane issued a Flood Warning for Paradise Creek at Moscow affecting Latah and Whitman Counties until further notice. Minor flooding was forecast. Moderate flooding was possible. The forecast called for Paradise Creek to continue to rise to near 9.80 feet before midnight and remain high through the night.
 - On March 10, the NWS in Spokane issued a Flood Warning for the South Fork of the Palouse River at Pullman affecting Whitman County. Minor flooding was forecast at the time.
 - On March 10, the NWS in Pendleton issued a Flood Warning for the Grande Ronde River at Troy affecting Asotin County. Minor flooding was forecast with the river expected to rise above flood stage by late continue to rise to near 10.4 feet by the afternoon.
 - On March 10, the NWS in Seattle extended the Gale Warning for the Northern Inland Waters of Puget Sound including the San Juan Islands until 1000 hours.
 - On March 10, NWS in Spokane cancelled the Flood Warning for the South Fork of the Palouse River at Pullman affecting Whitman County. The river crested near flood stage at 7.0 feet.
 - On March 10, Walla Walla activated their EOC for possible flooding of Mill Creek due to the Winter Storm rain.
 - On March 10, Yakima activated their EOC for the winter storm event.

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- On March 10, the Gale Warning for the northern inland waters of Puget Sound expired at 1300 hrs.
- On March 10, the NWS cancelled all watches/warnings for rivers and counties. 2 EOC's were still activated at that time.
- On March 10, the NWS issued a Flood Warning for the Walla Walla River near Touchet. The warning expired on March 11.
- On March 10, Yakima County Emergency Management requested assistance from the State Emergency Management Division to assist with their Planning Section Situation Unit for this event.
- On March 10, NWS Pendleton issued a Flood Warning for Urban Areas and Small Streams for Rain and Snowmelt in Eastern Yakima County until 1930 hours.
- On March 11, the NWS cancelled the Flood Warning for the Walla Walla River near Touchet at 1400 hours.
- On March 11, NWS Pendleton cancelled the Flood Warning for Urban Areas and Small Streams for rain and snowmelt in Eastern Yakima County. This Warning was replaced by a Flood Advisory through 0800 PDT on Monday morning, March 13.

17-0849

- On March 13, the NWS issued a Flood Warning for Kittitas County until 1030 hrs on March 14.
- On March 13, the NWS issued a Flood Warning for the Palouse River in Whitman County from the morning of March 14 until the evening of the March 16.
- On March 13, the NWS issued a Flood watch for Mason, King and Pierce Counties from the morning of March 14 until the afternoon of March 15.
- On March 13, the NWS issued a Flood Watch for the Little Spokane River in Spokane County and Paradise Creek in Whitman County until the afternoon of March 15.
- On March 13, the NWS issued a Flood Watch for the east slopes of the Cascades affecting Kittitas, Yakima and Klickitat Counties. The watch was cancelled on March 16.
- On March 13, the NWS issued a Flood Watch for Asotin, Garfield, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens and Whitman Counties until the evening of March 15.
- On March 13, Tacoma Power initiated a deliberate water release from the LaGrande Dam affecting the Nisqually River. Flow rates were increased from 2,500 CFS to 7,000 CFS and remained at the higher rate through March 17.
- On March 13, the NWS issued a Flood Warning for Spokane and Pend Oreille counties for rain and snowmelt until the evening of March 16.
- On March 13, the NWS issued a Flood Warning for the White River at R Street in Auburn affecting King and Pierce Counties. Minor flooding was forecasted.

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- On March 14, the NWS issued a Flood Warning for the Little Spokane River at Dartford. Minor flooding was forecasted.
- On March 14, the NWS issued a Flood Warning for the Grande Ronde River at Troy affecting Asotin County until March 16.
- On March 14, the NWS issued a Flood Warning for the Skokomish River near Potlatch in Mason County March 15.
- On March 14, the NWS issued a Flood Warning for Yakima County until March 16.
- On March 14, the NWS issued a Flood Watch for Lewis County through the afternoon of March 15.
- On March 14, the NWS issued and Flood warning for Kittitas County until March 16.
- On March 14, the NWS issued a Flood Warning for the Klickitat River in Klickitat County from March 15 to the evening of the March 16. The warning was cancelled on March 16.
- On March 14, the NWS issued a Flood Watch affecting the Greater Vancouver Area and the I-5 Corridor in Wahkiakum, Clark and Cowlitz Counties through March 15.
- On March 15, the NWS issued a Flood Warning for the Cowlitz River at Randle in Lewis County.
- On March 15, the NWS in Seattle issued a Flood Warning for the Snoqualmie River near Carnation affecting King County through March 16.
- On March 15, the NWS in Seattle replaced the Flood Watch for Lewis County with a flood warning for the Cowlitz River. No additional flooding was expected.
- On March 15, the NWS in Seattle issued a Flood Watch for Mason County through March 17.
- On March 15, the NWS extended the Flood Warning for the Little Spokane River at Dartford through March 20.
- On March 15, the NWS extended the Flood Warning for the Palouse River near Potlatch until March 17.
- On March 15, the NWS has issued a Flood Watch for the Walla Walla River near Touchet from March 16 to March 17.
- On March 15, the NWS in Spokane issued a Flood Warning for Rain and Snowmelt in Eastern Lincoln County in effect to March 17.
- On March 15, the NWS in Portland issued a Flood Warning for the Cowlitz River at Kelso affecting Cowlitz County until March 16.
- On March 15, the NWS in Seattle extended the time for the Flood Warning in Cowlitz River at Randal affecting Lewis County until March 17.
- On March 15, the NWS in Seattle extended the time the Flood Warning for the Snoqualmie River near Carnation affecting Snohomish and King Counties until March 16.
- On March 15, the NWS Seattle issued a Flood Warning for the City of Pacific at Government Canal and Butte Avenue.

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- On March 15, the NWS in Spokane issued a Flood Warning for Paradise Creek affecting Whitman County. The warning was cancelled on March 16th
- On March 16, the NWS in Pendleton issued a Flood Warning for the Walla Walla River near Touchet through March 17.
- On March 16, the NWS in Portland issued a Flood Warning for the Columbia River at Vancouver through March 17.
- On March 16, the NWS in Pendleton issued a Flood Warning for the Northeast corner of Yakima County. Water was flowing out of Lake Willow and had flooded a portion of Fruitvale, Avenue, between 33rd and Evergreen in Yakima. All other Flood Warnings for Yakima County had expired with no incident by that point in time.
- On March 16, the NWS in Spokane issued a generalized Flood Warning for the following counties: Asotin, Ferry, Garfield, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens and Whitman.
- On March 16, the NWS Spokane issued a Flood Watch for the Spokane River at Spokane. On March 17, the NWS cancelled this Flood Watch for the Spokane River at Spokane and replaced it with a Flood Warning until further notice for the Spokane River in Spokane County. The river remained above flood stage through the week ending March 25th.
- On March 16, the Flood Warning for the Cowlitz River at Kelso was terminated at 1413 hours.
- On March 16, the NWS in Pendleton extended the Flood Warning for Yakima County until 1015 hrs Saturday, March 18. Flooding was due to a levy failure along Cowlitz Creek and the Yakima River in the northern Yakima Valley, in and around Fruitvale Blvd, 22nd Street and Evergreen Street in the City of Yakima. Other flood locations included Lake Willow and Lake Aspen.
- On March 17, the NWS in Seattle extended the time for the Flood Warning for the White River at R Street affecting King and Pierce Counties until Sunday, March 19 at 1145 hours.
- On March 17, the NWS in Pendleton cancelled the Flood Warning for the Walla Walla River at Touchet.
- On March 17, the NWS in Portland extended the time for the Flood Warning for the Columbia River at Vancouver until further notice.
- On March 17, the NWS in Pendleton cancelled the Flood Warning for rain and snowmelt in northeastern Yakima County. The levy break that caused the flooding in the city of Yakima near Cowlitz Creek and the Yakima River on the north end of the city had been repaired.
- On March 18, the NWS has issued a Flood Warning for the Skokomish River near Potlatch for Mason County.
- On March 18, Tacoma Power increased the flow of the Nisqually River at the La Grande Dam from 4600 cfs to 7600 cfs between the hours of 0901 hours and 1300 hours.
- On March 18, the NWS in Pendleton increased the forecast flooding for the Grande Ronde River at Troy from minor to moderate in severity.

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- On March 18, the NWS in Seattle extended the time for the Flood Warning until that evening for the Skokomish River near Potlatch affecting Mason County.
- On March 18, the NWS in Seattle extended the time for the Flood Warning until Sunday morning, March 19 for the White River at R Street affecting King and Pierce Counties.
- On March 18, the NWS in Spokane updated the Flood Warning in effect until Monday morning, March 20 for the Palouse River near Potlatch affecting Whitman County. Moderate flooding was forecast.
- On March 18, the NWS in Spokane updated the Flood Warning for the Little Spokane River at Dartford affecting Spokane County until late Monday night, March 20. Minor flooding was forecast. Additionally, the Flood Warning for the Spokane River at Spokane was updated to remain in effect until further notice.
- On March 18, the NWS in Spokane issued a Flood Warning for Paradise Creek at Moscow affecting Whitman County through that evening.
- On March 18 at 1100 hours, the Washington State Emergency Management Division activated their Emergency Operations Center to level 2, partial enhanced operations.
- On March 18, the NWS in Seattle extended the Flood Warning for the Skokomish River near Potlatch affecting Mason County until late that night.
- On March 18, the NWS in Seattle extended the Flood Warning for the White River at R Street affecting both King and Pierce Counties until Monday morning, March 20.
- On March 18, the State Emergency Operations Officer (SEOO) observed a Tweet from the Puyallup Police Department cautioning drivers to avoid a mud slide blocking eastbound lanes in the 3400 block of East Pioneer causing the roadway to be closed. The SEOO made contact with CityCom dispatch to inquire if any assistance or resources were needed, but the Sergeant on scene declined. The City of Puyallup Public Works was enroute to assess the damage at that time.
- On March 18, the NWS in Seattle cancelled the Flood Warning for the Skokomish River near Potlatch affecting Mason County.
- On March 19, the NWS in Spokane cancelled the Flood Warning for Paradise Creek affecting Whitman County.
- On March 19, the NWS extended the Flood Warning for Spokane, Ferry, Stevens and Pend Oreille Counties until noon on March 22.
- On March 19, the NWS extended the Flood Warning for Lincoln County until 1615 hrs on March 22.
- On March 19, the NWS cancelled the Flood Warning for the Palouse River affecting Whitman County.
- On March 20, the NWS cancelled the Flood Warning for the White River at R Street in King and Pierce Counties effective at 0310 hours.
- On March 20, the NWS cancelled the Flood Warning for the Little Spokane River at Dartford.

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- On March 20, the NWS issued a Flood Warning for the White River affecting King and Pierce Counties until the morning of March 21.
- On March 20, Avista notified the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) of high flow water releases at the Nine Mile Dam and the Long Lake Dam in Spokane County. The water release was not expected to cause any significant impact downstream at the time.
- On March 21, the NWS extended the Flood Warning for the Grande Ronde River at Troy affecting Asotin County through the week.
- On March 21, the NWS updated the Flood Warning for the Grande Ronde River at Troy affecting Asotin County. The flood warning was in-effect until Thursday night, March 23.
- On March 21, the NWS extended the Flood Warning for the White River at R Street affecting King and Pierce Counties until Friday afternoon, March 24.
- On March 22, the NWS extended the Flood Warning for the Grande Ronde River at Troy affecting Asotin County until Tuesday afternoon, March 23.
- On March 22, the NWS issued a Gale Warning for the Northern Inland Waters including the San Juan Islands until 1400 hours.
- On March 22, the NWS extended the Flood Warning for the following counties in Northeastern Washington until noon on Saturday, March 22: Stevens, Ferry, Central Spokane, and Pend Oreille.
- On March 22, the NWS cancelled the Flood Warning for rain and snowmelt in SE Lincoln County.
- On March 23, the NWS cancelled the Flood Warning for the White River at R Street affecting King and Pierce Counties.
- On March 23, the NWS issued a Gale Warning for the Northern Inland Waters including the San Juan Islands in effect from 1800 hours to 0300 hours on Friday, March 24.
- On March 23, the NWS updated the Flood Warning for the Grande Ronde River at Troy affecting Asotin County until late Saturday night, March 25.
- On March 25, the NWS cancelled the Flood Warning for the Grande Ronde River at Troy because the river fell below flood stage.
- On March 25, NWS cancelled the areal flood watch for Spokane, Stevens, Ferry and Pend Oreille counties
- On March 25, the NWS issued a small stream flood warning for the Colville River affecting Stevens County until April 1.
- On March 26, the NWS issued a Gale Warning for the Northern Inland Waters and the San Juan Islands in effect until 1500 that day. The Warning then expired with no further action.
- On March 27, the NWS issued a Flood Watch until that same afternoon for the Skokomish River in Mason County.
- On March 27, the NWS issued a Flood Warning for the Columbia River at Longview affecting Cowlitz County until March 29.
- On March 28, the NWS Spokane extended the small stream flood warning for the Colville River affecting Stevens County until 1115 hours.

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- On March 28, the NWS elevated the Flood Watch to a Flood Warning for the Skokomish River near Potlatch affecting Mason County until Thursday morning, March 30.
 - On March 28, the NWS issued an Areal Flood Watch affecting Asotin, Pend Oreille, Spokane, and Stevens Counties from late that night through the next morning.
 - On March 28, the NWS extended the Flood Warning for the Spokane River at Spokane to be in effect until Tuesday, April 4.
 - On March 28, the NWS issued a Gale Warning for the East Entrance of the San Juan Islands in effect until 0900 hours, March 30.
 - On March 29, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Warning for the north Cascades of Whatcom and Skagit counties until that night at midnight.
 - On March 29, the NWS issued a Gale Warning for Puget Sound and Hood Canal until 1800 hours and expanded the Gale Warning for the Straights of Juan de Fuca until 2300 hours.
 - On March 29, the NWS issued a Flood Watch affecting the Little Spokane River in Spokane County from late on March 29 until early on March 31.
 - On March 29, the NWS issued a flood warning for the Grand Ronde River at Troy affecting Asotin County. Minor flooding was forecast at the time.
 - On March 30, the NWS cancelled the Flood Watch for the Spokane River near Dartford.
 - On March 30, the NWS cancelled the areal flood watch for Stevens, Asotin, Pend Oreille, Spokane counties due to the rain ceasing.
 - On March 31, the NWS cancelled the Flood Warning for the Grand Ronde River in Asotin County and small streams in central Stevens County.
- 17-0872 • On March 14, the Pacific Northwest Seismic Network reported a 3.35 magnitude earthquake, 7.2 miles deep, 8 miles South Southwest of Morton in Lewis County. Local dispatch reported the shaking was not felt and they had not received any reports of damage.
- 17-1008 • On March 25, Yakima County initiated the rescue of an injured snowmobiler in the Darland Mountain area. A helicopter with hoist was requested and coordinated from the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC). The subject was subsequently hoisted out and taken to the local hospital.
- 17-1032 • On March 28, the Colville Confederated Tribe requested a helicopter to assist in the search for a missing elderly female in the Inchelium area. Assets were coordinated from Spokane County to assist. As of the end of the month this search mission remained open.

SEOO Activity for the current month:

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117	Warnings issued to jurisdictions for imminent or occurring emergencies.
74	Warnings issued to tribal nations for imminent or occurring emergencies.
1537	Notifications conducted to state and local agencies for imminent or occurring emergencies.
12	Resources coordinated for search, rescue, recovery and response operations.

- Participated in 10 exercises of which 4 were vessel spill drills.

Conducted the following tests:

<i>Test Conducted (see below for descriptions of each test)</i>	<i>Frequency of tests</i>	<i>Number of tests completed this month</i>	<i>Total number of stations tested this month</i>	<i>Number of stations responding during tests initiated by the Alert and Warning Center</i>	<i>Contact Success rate for those tests initiated by the Alert and Warning Center</i>
NAWAS	Twice daily	120	1888	1820	96%
STAEN	At least twice per month	2	28	13	46%
CEMNET	At least 3 per week	14	326	127	39%

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<i>Test Conducted (see below for descriptions of each test)</i>	<i>Frequency of tests</i>	<i>Number of tests completed this month</i>	<i>Test Conducted (see below for descriptions of each test)</i>	<i>Frequency of tests</i>	<i>Number of tests completed this month</i>
Dedicated phone line test for DOE	At least 1 per week	4	AHAB Siren test	At least 1 per month	1
Dedicated phone line test for CGS	At least 1 per week	4	OPSCAN test	1 per day	29
AHAB Daily Function status	1 per day	31	King County 800 MHz Radio System tests	At least 1 per week	5

Test information/definitions:

- **NAWAS:** National Warning System Tests (NAWAS) over the State and Federal circuits. NAWAS connects over 1,800 State and Federal jurisdictions and agencies on the Federal circuit and all counties, some agencies and some tribes on the State circuit. There are 4 tests a day, testing 66 drops on the State and Federal circuits. The number above reflects the 2 tests a day initiated on the State Circuit by the Alert and Warning Center. The Federal Circuit is managed by FEMA and is not counted in this report.
- **DOE tests:** Department of Energy Hanford Site has a dedicated phone and fax line into the EOC and they are tested at least weekly. Only the voice phone line numbers are reported here
- **CGS tests:** Columbia Generating Station has a dedicated phone and fax line into the EOC and they are tested at least weekly. Only the voice phone line numbers are reported here.
- **AHAB:** All Hazards Alert Broadcast System is tested daily through the daily function tests, which tests the functional capability of all coastal and Puget Sound siren systems. The voice and tone sirens are tested monthly. The AHAB Siren activates the coastal and Puget Sound voice and tone sirens during tsunami and other hazardous incidents.
- **OPSCAN:** Olympic Peninsula Public Safety Alliance Network (OPSCAN) connects public safety organizations throughout the Olympic Peninsula.
- **STAEN:** The State Agency Emergency Network (STAEN) connects state agency via an 800 MHz radio system.
- **CEMNET:** Comprehensive Emergency Management Network radio connecting all counties and many cities via Zetron Radio Console.
- **King County 800 MHz System** connects the Alert and Warning Center with King County key emergency management and response organizations.

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